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"Independent in all things, Neutral in nothing."

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What is to be Done with Mexico—An English View of Mexican Affairs—A Triple Protectorate Recommended.

A very long and interesting letter upon the affairs of Mexico, appears in the London Times of the 30th ult. It comes under the authority of "Our own Correspondent," and is as official as anything but an editorial can be. As it may be supposed to represent the views of the Times regarding a solution of the present distracted affairs of Mexico, we extract the salient portions of it.

After describing the terrible conflicts between the republicans and the reactionaries, as well as the complications through foreign diplomatic interference which are already known to us, the correspondent speaks thus:

"Mr. Corwin, the American Minister, of whom his countrymen may well feel proud, and who has for the last twenty years made the affairs of Mexico his constant study, candidly admits that he is quite at fault, that the accounts, and as they have been, had failed to give even the slightest notion of the actual state of the country, and that nothing but foreign interference in some shape or other can put a stop to the present frightful disorders. As your correspondent, I have never concealed the truth, and it does not require the gift of prophecy to be able to foretell the actual ruin of every Englishman within the republic unless energetic measures are at once resorted to."

A petition lay to day (June 29th) presented by the principal American citizens resident in Mexico to Mr. Corwin, suggesting to him the propriety of asking a force of fifty marines from the ship of war stationed at Vera Cruz to protect the archives of the Legation, and form a rallying point for American citizens in case of need, and it is generally believed that Mr. Corwin will accede to the petition. In the present critical state of affairs, and with the example of November last before them, it would seem a mere act of discretion on the part of Sir G. Wyke to make a similar request of the British officer commanding the Gulf."

"There are three courses open—first, the seizure of the ports, by which England might make herself the recipient of duties levied on these ports and apply them in liquidation of the claims of her citizens. Such a course, however, would afford no protection to British subjects resident in the interior; on the contrary, it might expose them to considerable risks; it would not tend to develop the resources of the country, the erection of interior custom-houses would prevent the circulation of the goods beyond the ports themselves, and the frontier of the river Bravo del Norte would necessarily become the main artery of supply."

"Secondly, the occupation of the country for a limited number of years by England, France and the United States, or by any of those powers separately under an arrangement entered into with the others."

"Thirdly, by a protectorate, under which Mexico would be allowed the selection of its own President, such President to be retained in power for a certain fixed period, supported by a sufficient force to ensure the tranquillity of the country, and assisted in his deliberations by a council composed either exclusively of nominees of the protecting powers, or partly of Mexicans and partly of such nominees. This last plan would seem to be the least objectionable. It would not to any extent militate against the prejudices of the people. It would meet with the support of the respectable portion of the community, and would not necessitate the presence of a larger force than could with ease be provided for out of the revenues of the country. When it is considered that under the dominion of old Spain the revenues of Mexico amounted to upwards of twenty millions of dollars, and that out of this sum some four or five millions were remitted annually to the royal treasury, and three and a half millions applied to the benefit of poor dependencies, it is surely not too much to expect equally beneficial results from an enlightened European protectorate."

From the London Times, Aug. 20.

Lord Palmerston's Observations on the Bull Run Fight.

Yesterday Lord Palmerston was formally installed in his office of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, with much pomp and circumstance, and amid every demonstration of popular enthusiasm. The banquet was held in the Maison Dieu, which has been recently restored and decorated. The building, which was formerly a religious house of the order of the Templars, is now used as a town hall. It is the very edifice in which, according to local tradition, the reconvert King John delivered his kingdom to the Papal Legate Pandolf, and undertook to do homage for it as a vassal of the Pope, paying 1,000 marks as annual tribute.

The Chairman rose to introduce the toast of the evening. Having referred to the ancient glories of the ports, and eulogized the character and merits of their distinguished guests, his Worship gave the health of Viscount Palmerston, their new Lord

Warden. The toast was received with enthusiasm and prolonged cheering.

Lord Palmerston then rose and said:—Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, it is really not one of those commonplace expressions which are usual on these occasions, if I say that no words can adequately express the smallest portion of the gratitude which I feel for the kind, the warm, the cordial reception which I have met with, not only in this hall, but in every part of the precincts of Dover through which I have passed during the proceedings of to-day. Colonel Mordaunt truly observed that recent events in America should teach us a valuable lesson. The example of what has happened across the Atlantic shows that you may collect thousands of men together and put uniforms on their backs and muskets in their hands, but you do not thereby convert them into soldiers or into an army—[hear, hear]—there must be discipline. It is not enough that there should be individual bravery. Why, our conscripts in America, as individual men, are as brave as any that tread the earth. They are of the same stock as ourselves, they are descended from the same parents, are animated by the same spirit, and prepared to encounter equal dangers. But when thousands of men as personally courageous as any race in existence get together, such men wanting that discipline in his command which discipline and training can alone supply, they exhibited to the world that unfortunate rapidity of movement which took place at Bull Run. [laughter.] That I say is no disparagement to the valor of the Americans, but affords, I repeat, a lesson which we ourselves may usefully ponder and remember—viz., that discipline and organization are necessary to make any army efficient in the field.

Martial Law

Sir Matthew Hale remarks that "Martial Law is in truth and reality no law, but sometimes indulged rather than allowed as a law." The books contain no instruction on the subject. The law dictionary defines it as an arbitrary kind of law or rule, sometimes established in places or districts occupied or controlled by an armed force, by which the civil authority is temporarily surrendered or suspended, but none of the writers on law have ventured to enter on any discussion or explanation of its scope or effect. The simple definition of law in general—that it is a rule of action—seems at once to indicate that the expression martial law is not a strictly correct name for the state of affairs which exists where it is declared. It is distinct in all respects from military law, which is the code established by a Government for the regulation of its soldiers. Thus in the statutes of the United States are to be found a complete series of rules for the guidance of the army and navy. These provide for the most minute circumstances which are likely to occur in times of peace or of war, and are understood as prevailing in every camp, and governing all persons in the military or naval service of the country. They do not operate to force the officers and soldiers of the Government from obligations to the civil law, but where an officer has been committed of which the courts of law and the courts-martial have alike jurisdiction, the latter take precedence in judging the offender, and their judgment from him from the operation of the ordinary processes of criminal prosecution. These statutes direct the formation of courts-martial, regulate all the minutiae of a trial, the forms of oath to be administered, the rights of the accused, and the punishment which may be decreed.

It may be imagined that a declaration of martial law would operate to extend the operation of the military law over all the residents of a certain district, and require an exercise of the same forms and ceremonies in the trial of offenders who were not connected with the army as with those who were in the service. But this is not the case, by any means. Martial law knows no law. It is the result of a necessity, and when declared, it must necessarily operate to place the superior officer who commands in the district, or who shall have found it necessary to declare its existence, at once in the position of an absolute governor. He is immediately responsible to no one for the exercise of his powers, except his military superiors—Should he, in governing the country which he thus seizes upon, or in which he declares martial law, do anything unbecoming an officer, or exercise a tyrannical power to the injury of private citizens, he is responsible to a court-martial under the military law, and would be judged by his fellow soldiers. He is thus placed in a position of remarkable delicacy. He is an autocrat, and his orders must be obeyed on the instant. We do not perceive any doubt that he has power of life and death, that he may confiscate property, imprison citizens, and shoot or hang offenders without form of trial, on the motion of his own will. But for all this he is responsible to the judgment of his companions in arms, and may be himself tried and condemned when the opportunity arrives.

How far martial law in this country would be recognized as protecting the soldier who administers it from subsequent prosecutions by citizens, after the restoration of peace, is one of the questions which must remain undecided for the present. The trial and acquittal of a soldier by a court-martial would be a bar to his indictment and conviction in a criminal court forever after, but would not be a bar to a civil action, brought by a citizen whom he had imprisoned, or punished. The question is whether he could defend himself in such an action, by showing that he was an officer in

command, in time of war—and that he was administering martial law by virtue of his own proclamation, or that of his superior officer. The prevailing opinion among legal gentlemen would seem to be, that he would be under the necessity of averring still further that a state of emergency existed which rendered the proclamation of martial law proper. If under the necessity of averring this, he would of course be compelled to sustain his defense by proving it, and this would result in his submitting to a court and jury the entire history, and they would judge him accordingly.

If this be so, an officer who administers martial law is amenable to the courts-martial in his person even to the extent of his life, for his just and equitable conduct, while he is under the necessity of his property to any citizen who shall be wronged by his acts, if those acts are either unreasonable or unjustifiable.

But future responsibility is not always a check on present power. In the flush of temporary rule, surrounded by the voices of a populace, or an army who are not disposed to listen to reason when they hold the rope in their hands, the best of men may err. The man who was hung or shot, would have little comfort in the assurance that his judges would be court-martialed for killing him, and the Judge himself is not so capable of determining principles of right and wrong in moments like these which justify martial law, as he might be in cooler times.

It is manifest enough that this form of law—or government—is one of the worst misfortunes that can befall a country, and a district, and unless the General who administers it is a Washington or a Scott, the citizens of any part of America may well tremble in view of the possibility of its occurrence. In most cases, where it has been exercised, the advance of a conquering army into a country, or the position of a fortress, in possession of a district, but surrounded by hostile enemies, has been the excuse which was given to justify its adoption. Indeed, where a foreign army is invading the country of an enemy, it is often times the only possible method of controlling those lawless spirits who hang on to the skirts of armies, or who in cities that have been seized by storm, take the opportunity to commit robbery and outrage, without fear of the civil magistrates. In such places a short prayer and a swift reproof are the best civilities.

At the time of the Baltimore attack on the Massachusetts regiment, many demands in local terms that the Administration should estimate the General in command in that city to declare martial law, and from time to time we had reports that it was done. But the authorities in Washington resisted the pressure, and thus successfully avoided one of the chief difficulties attending martial law—to wit, the restoration of the civil courts and authorities to their power and place when the exigency should cease to exist.

America has been remarkably free from those experiences which teach the operations and consequences of law in times of war. We have "peopled" our bay with the making of a fortress, and we are unable for time to understand where we are, or to see clearly in the new light that is around us. Let us hope that the lessons we are now daily receiving may not be too severe for our strength.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

From the N. Y. Tribune, Sept. 10th.

The Military Revolt at Willet's Point—Further Particulars—Condition of the Wounded.

We have obtained further particulars of the affair at Willet's Point, reported yesterday. The arrangement made by Captain Cressy for his departure with his men failed through the agency of a private, who had been offered a position as an officer. The captain, at his own request, had been made officer of the guard, and the plan for leaving the regiment must necessarily be carried out on Monday night, since his men were to be mustered into the United States service on Tuesday.

Captain Cressy selected the picket guard mostly from his own company, contrary to the usual practice of appointing the guard from all the companies; but to avoid suspicion he took a few others. His plan was to collect his men before twelve o'clock, and marching to the landing where the pickets were placed, be joined by them and leave the ground. For some reason he changed the countermand and gave the guard a new one, assigning as a cause that the Colonel had, for special reasons, given such an order.

It appears that one of the privates, J. H. Smith, to whom the design of leaving and joining another regiment had been confided, divulged the matter to the Colonel. He had been promised the position of Orderly Sergeant in place of Thompson, who was to become First Lieutenant instead of Barbetta, who was to be a Captain when the company was mustered in.

The Colonel sent a messenger to Capt. Cressy, with a verbal order for him to come immediately to headquarters, and placed a guard in an adjoining room to arrest him. Cressy refused to come. The Colonel had previously placed a company under Capt. Gussar on the road, to intercept Cressy. Col. Legrand, with two officers, was on his way to meet Cressy when they heard the discharge of a pistol, and immediately afterwards a volley of musketry, and the cries of the wounded. When they came to the ground Capt. Cressy and his

men excepting the dead and wounded, had gone. Drs. Allen and Redmond of Flushing were sent for, and arrived on the ground before two o'clock.

Fredrick Mackay was instantly killed. The top of his head had been shot completely off, and his brains were scattered in every direction. It was a most horrifying spectacle.

Dominick Sael had a bullet wound through and over his left hip, the missile passing out through his bowels, which protruded. He also was dead.

Sergeant John Henry Thompson received a bullet in the thick part of his left thigh, which passed out without breaking the bone.

Louis Germain received a bullet in his back, which passed upward from the point of entrance, and breaking three of his ribs, was lost in the body. The wound is probably mortal. Germain is an Italian, and was formerly a Catholic priest.

Alexander Sloan received a bullet in his right shoulder, which passed through the collar bone and shoulder blade, and stopping just underneath the skin at the back. It was removed by Dr. Allen.

Ann Rankin received a pistol ball in the left side of the head, about two inches above the ear. He did not fall, but ran off, and after dancing about for a time took the bullet out with his own hand. It was extracted. He says it did not hurt him much, and regards the matter as a good joke.

Many of Cressy's men returned to camp, professing to know nothing of the conspiracy, and from other evidence it appears probable that most of these had no knowledge of what was taking place, but followed the rebels at their word. It is evident that the rebels thought he was not bound to remain at the camp, not having been mustered into the United States service, although he had entered that of the State, which he did on the twenty-fourth of last month.

A Coroner's jury was empaneled yesterday by Dr. Trunk, of Queens county, and after an examination of the bodies, and of such facts as could be gathered at the camp, an adjournment took place till two o'clock to-day.

Recess or rest time—Singular tokens of a war time accumulate in our city. Take a short walk down our important street, for instance; you come presently to a substantial-looking banking establishment on the large plate glass window you read, "Pay and returns to begin at once." It is a defiant exhortation to the new recruits with the heavy tramp of cavalry soldiers, whose spurs ring loudly upon the floor, making a melancholy melody in the room of passing depositors, of the grateful silver sound which fell upon their tympanum in the olden times, when they could at any time get their own at the counter, in the current coin of the realm.

What a start of surprise and joy that announcement, "Pay to begin at once," must have caused in many a fainting heart, whose possessor had for weeks, daily visited the safety institution, hoping against hope, if only the pay would begin at once, they would forgo the ration.

A block or two farther on you find a grand old medical college, whose wide halls of east reached to the great swelling words of many a Southern youth who is now boasting over his glass that he is acquainted with every nook and cranny of Philadelphia—knows where the rich men live, and where the big bank safes are. Patted on the outer wall of the college you find a hand bill, which sets forth the fact that within these walls "Mounted Rifle Rangers" have a rendezvous.

We may suppose, then, that there is a prospect that each will meet with the sword as well as the computing knife, on the battle field; and that those who have wished the scalped in friendly emulation, in the dissecting rooms of the venerable college, will be presently investigating each other's anatomy without waiting for the decess of their subjects—in fact, with a view to bringing about that consummation.—[Phil. Bulletin.]

Defensive Battles of the World.

The defensive battles of the world, those of which to use Hallam's words, a contrary result would have essentially varied the drama of the world in all its subsequent scenes, are numbered as fifteen by Professor Croxy, who fills the chair of Ancient and Modern History in the University of London. They are the grand subject of two volumes by him lately from Bentley's press, and are:

1. The battle of Marathon, fought 490 B. C., in which the Greeks under Themistocles, defeated the Persians under Darius, thereby turning back the tide of Asiatic invasion, which else would have swept over Europe.
2. The battle of Salamis, 480 B. C., in which the Athenian power was broken, and the rest of Europe saved from Greek dominion.
3. The battle of Arbela, 331 B. C., in which Alexander, by a defeat of Darius, established his power in Asia, and by the introduction of European civilization, produced an effect which may yet be traced there.
4. The battle of Meturus, fought 203 B. C., the Romans, under the consul Nero, defeating the Carthaginians, under Hasdrubal, and by which the supremacy of the great Republic was established.
5. The victory of Arginensis, A. D. 68, over the Roman leader Vespasian, which secured Gaul from Roman dominion.
6. The battle of Chalons, A. D. 451, in which Aetius defeated Attila, the Hun, the self-styled

"Scourge of God," and saved Europe from entire devastation.

7. The battle of Tours, A. D. 732, in which Charles Martel, by the defeat of the Saracens, averted the Mohammedan yoke from Europe.

8. The battle of Hastings, A. D. 1066, in which William of Normandy was victorious over the Anglo-Saxon Harold, and the result of which was the formation of the Anglo-Norman nation, which is now dominant in the world.

9. The battle of Orleans, A. D. 1429, in which the English were defeated, and the independent existence of France secured.

10. The defeat of the Spanish Armada, A. D. 1588, which crushed the hopes of Papacy in England.

11. The battle of Blenheim, A. D. 1704, in which Marlborough, by defeat of Tullard, broke the power and crushed the ambitious schemes of Louis XIV.

12. The defeat of Charles XII, by Peter the Great, at Poltava, A. D. 1709, which secured the stability of the Muscovite Empire.

13. The battle of Saratoga, A. D. 1777, in which Gen. Gates defeated Burgoyne, and which decided the contest in favor of the American Revolutionists, by making France their ally, and other European powers friendly to them.

14. The battle of Vainoy, A. D. 1792, in which the continental allies under the Duke of Brunswick, were defeated by the French, under Dumouriez, without which the French Revolution would have been stayed.

15. The battle of Waterloo, 1815, in which the Duke of Wellington, by defeating Napoleon, and saving Europe from his grasping ambition. [Up took Europe half a century in its progress towards liberty and distinctive nationality, which was only recovered by the battle of Salamis (?)]

Shrewd Detectives at Work.

Philadelphia, Monday, Sept. 23.

The most important arrests that have been made during the rebellion came to light in this city to-day. The names of these men are James M. Haig, F. Wyatt and William Gilchrist. Haig is a Baltimore Israelite, whose business is the making of military truncheons, epaulettes sword handles, &c. He obtained a buy contract from the United States government to more effectively conceal his plans, and was armed with numerous letters from Federal functionaries that he intended to produce in connection. This man employed a private tutor from Baltimore and General Dix and the Provost Marshal showed him up. He was first observed in this wise. A package, containing several thousand fiction tubes and cinema prints had been left at Adams Express office in this city, addressed to a well known firm in Baltimore. Being threatened with arrest, the latter firm confessed that they were the agents of James M. Haig, and it was further ascertained that the same was shipped under a fictitious name by William Gilchrist.

Detective Benjamin Franklin, a sagacious and fertile Philadelphia officer, now determined to induce Haig to this city, for which purpose he resorted to certain ingenious means, not now ripe for publication. A celebrated Lincoln detective now took part in the matter, and the means by which they inveigled all the parties constitute the richest item in the history of criminal surveillance. The Israelite was so played upon that he is not yet aware of the snare who misled him, and when the master was ripe the whole party were taken up, their goods and papers seized, and they are now in Fort Lafayette, having gone forward on Sunday night.

Wm. Gilchrist is a razor and cutlery importer whose establishment is situated at Fifth and Commerce streets. He has never taken the oath of allegiance, being an Englishman. His plans were to pretend himself a Federal agent, until the word came, when he was to claim the privileges of a British subject. In his establishment were found surgical instruments, caps, pistols, horse knives, &c., packed and directed to go southward. The property amounts to \$10,000 in value.

F. Wyatt is a Virginian, formerly in partnership with C. H. Gamble, 255 North Water street. He has always been a rebel traitor, and his wife has been six times to Richmond and back within as many weeks, taking each time trunks heavily filled with weapons and goods contraband. She passes our lines by being an officer of our army, and obtained passes for that purpose. Said officer has been arrested, and will probably be shot. At Wyatt's house an extensive correspondence with parties in the South was found, and his complicity with the rebels was proved by his papers, even in the substance of any other evidence.

The buy contract in which Haig was engaged was to have been worked to good advantage. Two vessels, one loaded with bales of hay and the other with bales containing war munitions, were to have been dispatched up the Potomac, and at Aquia Creek, at a given signal, the bogus hay would have been run under the rebel batteries. All the was proved by the seized letters, and also the fact that the late captures of Federal shops and small craft by the rebels off the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers, were the work of design and not of accident, the same containing contraband matters. New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore merchants are thus implicated, and the proofs are too plain and startling to be set aside. These three men were seized together, and among their several correspondences were late letters from rebel contractors, acknowledging the receipt of pistols and side arms.

A part of the correspondence implicating them was obtained from the wife of a lieutenant in the Federal army, who had been rather delicately implicated with N. H. Winder, now in Lafayette. She has been arrested in Newark, N. J., where she resides. The government decoy who assisted detective Franklin in these labors is said to be a daring Californian, full of nerve and fertile in expedients, who has been twice in Charleston and thrice in Richmond since the battle of Bull Run. His manner of making the arrest cannot now be disclosed, although it rivals in interest and danger the exploits of the best Bow street officers.